

DARPA BAA 02-08
Q&A though 08 April 2002

32. I'm trying to decide whether to submit on just our ideas on a specific area. or whether I should also include our work on a broader but related technical area. Do you recommend (a) picking one or the other, or (b) a proposal with both ideas?

RESPONSE: A single comprehensive proposal could be partitioned to describe related but stand alone pieces of a larger effort as an alternative to submitting separate proposals for work in different areas. This involves a business decision on the part of the offeror as to whether or not the company submits one proposal or a set of smaller, discrete proposals. The BAA Proposers Information Pamphlet also pertains:

"If the proposed effort consists of multiple segments or phases that could reasonably be partitioned for purposes of funding, these segments or phases should be clearly identified, with separate cost estimates provided for each..."

33. Should we include in the proposal a photocopy of our 'Article of Incorporation?'

RESPONSE: No, you need not photocopy your articles of incorporation; text describing relevant information (e.g., when and where incorporated) contained in the articles is considered adequate; same applies to team members and subcontractors.

34. Is the closing date 22 Apr 02? Can a Federal Lab submit a proposal and get funding to work on it? Do we need to have another partner (a university or private company) to submit a proposal?

Related question: Is it acceptable to DARPA for National Labs to participate on this BAA?

RESPONSE: The April 22, 2002 deadline for submitting proposals is a first round deadline. The BAA remains open for one year after the publishing date (March 21, 2002).

Certain Federal Labs may submit proposals. Proposals which are selected - from any source - will receive funding. For eligible Federal Labs, partnering with a university or private company is not required. From DFARS 235.017-1:

DoD-sponsored FFRDCs that function primarily as research laboratories (C3I Laboratory operated by the Institute for Defense Analysis, Lincoln Laboratory operated by Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Software Engineering Institute) may respond to solicitations and announcements for programs which promote research, development, demonstration, or transfer of technology (Section 217, Pub.L.103-337).

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DOE-sponsored FFRDCs may also respond to BAA 02-08. The full list of DOD- and DOE-sponsored FFRDCs is maintained by the National Science Foundation at the following URL: <http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/srs/nsf02302/mastlist.htm#Topic1>.

35. Volume I has a 15 page limit. Do the title page and official transmittal letter (Part I of the volume) count toward the 15-page limit?

RESPONSE: No, the pages mentioned do not count against the 15-page limit.

36. The PIP appears to be for development projects rather than products, and much of the requested information would be inapplicable to us. Is there information elsewhere on how to submit products for consideration by DARPA, or should we follow the guidelines for BAA 02-08? Also, as our product is complete, much of the requested information would immediately be obvious upon review; we are able to do live online demonstrations. Would this be a possibility?

RESPONSE: DARPA's focus in the Information Awareness BAA is on revolutionary advancement of the state of the art. That said, it is sometimes possible to attain revolutionary capabilities by applying existing tools and products in new ways. This would include integrating a tool in a larger system. It is also possible to extend the benefits of existing tools through additional research and development. Lastly, DARPA makes no claim to having mined all nuggets (unique, one of a kind products) and may be unaware of your application's underlying technological approach. If you believe your product significantly advances the state of the art, you are encouraged to submit a proposal in response to the BAA. Unfortunately, the BAA Evaluation process does not allow for online demonstrations.

37. US Organization Certification: Please clarify what is meant by "specification" in the sentence "Certification shall consist of the specification of each proposer's articles of incorporation."

RESPONSE: Refer to Q&A # 33.

38. US Citizenship Certification: Since the proposal will be reviewed by non-Government personnel, we have individual privacy concerns about submitting individual social security numbers and other information required by this section. In order to take reasonable steps to protect this information, can we submit the information required under this section under a separate cover with a restriction for US Government "eyes only?"

RESPONSE: Yes. Refer also to Q&A # 14.

39. It appears we have some common interests. There is a series of papers that have been published of unclassified work that may be relevant to part of the

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challenges within this BAA. The attached is a paper to be published this summer. Any feedback would be appreciated.

RESPONSE: We regret that due to workload constraints, we are unable to read and talk to offerors about white papers and proposal drafts that are submitted, but unfortunately, we need to be fair to all in terms of the feedback we supply. The BAA and PIP best describe our needs and we're looking for good ideas. If you think your work is relevant, then we'd like to see a proposal from you. We've tried to ease the burden on offerors by limiting technical proposals to 15 pages.

40. In responding to BAA 02-08, is it advisable to go as a sub to a company that has a secret clearance?

RESPONSE: The decision will be unique to each offeror. As stated in the BAA, there will be opportunities for unclassified work. Offerors proposing to do work in collaboration with the intelligence community will require appropriate security clearances.

41. Privacy of SSN - our company is not comfortable submitting personal SSNs in this type of document. Must SSN be provided in the proposal, or can that information be transmitted upon award and request?

RESPONSE: Proposals involving work with the intelligence community will require identification of personnel, which includes social security numbers. Requirements are described on Page 11 of the PIP. Information shall be transmitted in accordance with Q&A # 14. See Q&A # 38 for an alternative means of submitting SSNs. Offerors that are still uncomfortable with submitting SSNs for "US Government eyes only" may defer submission of SSNs until such time that they are notified that their proposals were selected. In this case, proposals for classified work must certify that the offeror has the ability to do the work based on existing clearances, or can obtain such clearances as a result of DARPA's sponsorship (i.e., a contract award under this BAA).

42. Clearances held by DARPA - if clearance certifications are currently held at DARPA under other programs, do these need to be transmitted per the instructions in the answer to Question 14? Is it sufficient to indicate which certifications are held there already?

RESPONSE: If clearance certifications are currently held at DARPA under other programs, it is sufficient to identify these personnel (including SSN) in the transmittal required by Q&A # 14, versus resending full certification information.

43. Totality of security information required for each person - the Question 14 answer specifies only Full Name, PCL level, and SSN be provided in the proposal. However, the PIP states that additional fields like SSBI date, granting date and agency, in process submissions, etc. be provided. Since there is limited page count allowed in response to the BAA, does ALL of the information need to be provided to comply with the requirements in Part II E (2) and Part II E (3), or just the Full

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Name, PCL Level, and SSN? The answer to Question 14 seems to imply most of the information like date and place of birth will be provided by the separate transmissions to the DARPA Special Security Office and Visitor Control Center. If all of the information needs to be provided in the body of the technical volume, will it still count in the page limit of the technical volume?

RESPONSE: Minimum requirements for the proposal are: Full Name, PCL Level and SSN (if involving work with the intelligence community). The remaining certification information may be provided via separate transmission in accordance with Q&A # 14. This separate transmittal will not count against the 15-page limit Volume I.

44. What is the level of interest for BAA-02-08 in the development of terrorism domain knowledge, for example, from heterogeneous open sources?

RESPONSE: The Government desires better theories and concepts for organizing data obtained from heterogeneous open sources versus actually performing domain analysis.

45. Would a domain effort to populate, in part, a repository be relevant?

RESPONSE: BAA 02-08 is concerned with new methods for populating a repository versus actual data collection.

46. Where does the development of new theories for organizing terrorism domain analysis or domain knowledge fit in?

RESPONSE: The best fit in the BAA technical areas would be under Collaboration, Automation And Cognitive Aids Issues. The Government expects that the development of these theories will extend outside this technical area as well.

47. Should domain data development and theory formation only be included in so far as they provide example data or analytical processes for use in development and testing of repository technology or collaboration, automation, and cognitive aids technology?

RESPONSE: Domain data development efforts are outside the scope of the BAA. Theory formation could apply to either repository technology or collaboration, automation, and cognitive aids technology.

48. Are domain knowledge or domain analysis considered more or less relevant for any of the three topical areas?

RESPONSE: Efforts funded under the BAA are not likely to involve performing analysis to develop domain knowledge.

49. Our company recently completed a DARPA project that may have applications to BAA 02-08. If IAO is familiar with the project, could we obtain some insight into how projects under the BAA would be similar to or different from our earlier work?

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RESPONSE: It is up to each offeror to assess their skills and expertise in the process of developing proposals in response to BAA 02-08. Offerors are in a better position of determining which of their capabilities best represent a solution to the requirements described in the BAA.

50. With respect to security clearances, if key performing personnel do not have an SCI Top Secret clearance does this put an offeror at a critical disadvantage?

RESPONSE: Only with regard to classified work at the TS/SCI level and only if an organization/individual is somehow encumbered in its ability to obtain required clearances. Also, not all work under this BAA will be classified, so not having personnel with TS/SCI clearance is not a consideration for unclassified work.

51. Should the \$1 million annual guideline for sizing projects be considered a firm boundary, or should we present various cost options, with corresponding levels of sophistication and service?

RESPONSE: From the BAA and PIP: "The size of each award and duration of efforts will vary according to the type of effort undertaken. In the case of proposals containing partitioned segments or phases, proposers should define partitions so that the annual budget for each is in the \$200,000 to \$1,000,000 range. If warranted, portions or partitions of resulting awards may be segregated into pre-priced options. The Government reserves the right to select for award all, some or none of the proposals received. The Government also reserves the right to fund all, or any part of, a proposal evaluated to be eligible for award. Awards are subject to the availability of Government funds, and may be incrementally funded." (refer also to Q&A # 20)

52. Is there any provision for submitting a classified paper in the relevant papers for Part III?

RESPONSE: No. The BAA specifies that, "Regardless of the security level of the effort proposed, only UNCLASSIFIED proposals will be accepted."